

Edwards added to EPA's list

By VALLEY PRESS STAFF
and wire services

EDWARDS AFB — Edwards Air Force Base has been added to the Environmental Protection Agency's list of 106 locations nationwide targeted for priority cleanup through the EPA's "Superfund."

Edwards is said to be contaminated by large ground-level and subterranean fuel spills, an abandoned landfill containing pesticides and heavy metals, a dump site for electroplating wastes and an industrial waste pond containing high levels of heavy metals, according to an EPA report released last year. The report listed Edwards, along with 51 other military installations, nuclear fuel facilities and laboratories, as among the nation's worst hazardous waste sites.

According to that report, Edwards has one waste site three miles from where the base obtains drinking water for its employees and residents. Base offi-

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cials have stated that the base's aquifer is monitored on a regular basis and that no contamination has been detected.

In addition to the above-mentioned hazards, Edwards officials have conceded in the past that the southern perimeter of the base near Lancaster has been plagued by illegal dumping from outside sources.

Similar dumping problems do not exist on the Kern county side of the base, according to Edwards officials. Unlike Los Angeles County, Kern County Waste Management does not charge gate fees to county residents to use its landfills.

About \$12 million has been spent at the base cleaning up waste since 1981, according to statistics released by the Edwards Public Affairs Office earlier this year.

Edwards officials could not be reached for comment late Tuesday.